

# Fiancee of Spy Suspect Here Tells How She Warned Him to Shun Army Camps

## NATION-WIDE SEARCH IS ON FOR AIDES OF ALLEGED SPY

(Continued from First Page.)  
would clear the city of the suspicion which seems to hang over it of being a spy center.

### FIVE MORE APPLY FOR CITIZENSHIP PAPERS

Five applications for first citizenship papers were filed today at the clerk's office of the District Supreme Court. The candidates are Alexander Nelson Nelson, English, plumber, thirty-two years old, 825 Eighth street northwest, arrived in this country in 1907; Arthur Elliott Carleton, English, brakeman, thirty years old, 800 O street northeast, came to America in 1908; Genaro Vidone, Italian, thirty-six years old, 2807 M street northwest, lampfitter, came to America in 1907; Joseph Ostroch, Russian, furniture-gilder, thirty-eight years old, 1227 Eleventh street northeast, came to the United States in 1904, and Thomas James Prendergast, Irish, twenty-seven years old, second butler, 1607 New Hampshire avenue northwest, arrived in America in 1911.

### PREMIER GERMAN FLYER KILLED ACCIDENTALLY

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 16.—Official confirmation has been received here today of the death of Vice-Sergeant Max Muller, one of Germany's most successful airmen.

Muller was credited with thirty-eight victories. He was killed, says a Berlin dispatch, in a fall resulting from a defect in his own machine.

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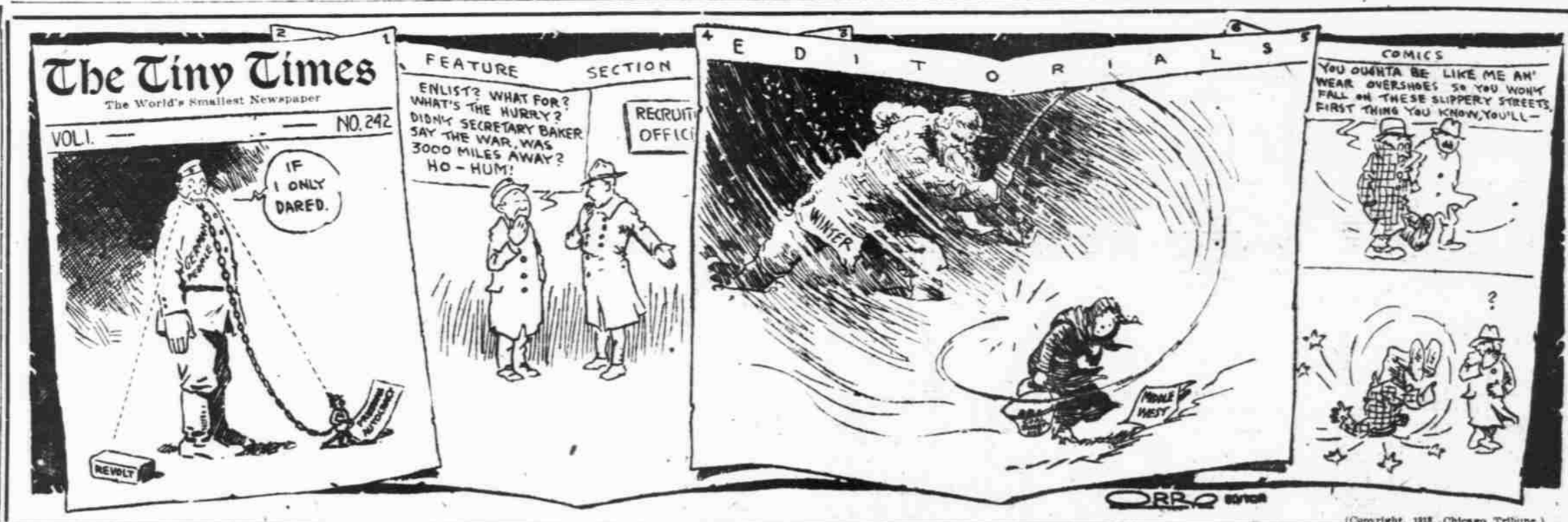
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## FIANCEE OF SPY SUSPECT ADMITS SHE WARNED HIM

A sensational statement impugning Walter Spormann's loyalty to America and declaring that he was pro-German in his war sentiments was obtained today exclusively by The Times from Miss Mary Stoops, Washington sweetheart of the young German now under arrest for an alleged attempt to explode a powder storehouse in Fort Monroe, Va., on Monday.

**Talented Violinist.**  
Miss Stoops, talented violinist and well known in Washington music circles, was located by a Times reporter at the National Hotel, where she is a member of the orchestra. News of her sweetheart's arrest had preceded him.

Miss Stoops' statement to The Times also admits that from time to time she had begged Spormann to give up working around the army camps "because I knew it was dangerous for him."

Her statement is expected to be of great importance when her sweetheart is placed on trial. She protested her belief in his innocence and continually asked if there could be no mistake, if the story as published in local newspapers could not be an exaggeration of the truth.

"She was nervous when found by the reporter. He knocked on her door and when she answered, said: 'I would like to talk with you.' 'I suppose you want to talk about Walter Spormann; come in,' she said. 'There had been no intimation by the reporter that such might be the case. She was apparently nervous. 'We have been going together for a long time,' she told the reporter, 'and there is no use denying it. I have known Mr. Spormann for a long time, and I like the man. I never thought for a moment that this could happen. 'Oh! do you think it can be true? Don't you think it might be exaggerated? I can't believe it; I don't know what to think. 'Didn't you know that he was a German?' asked the reporter. 'Oh, yes; I knew that. And I always told him that he ought not to work around these army camps because he is a German. I begged and begged him to get something else to do, where he wouldn't be in so much danger. But, of course, I didn't think he would do anything like this. 'I'm American through and through, and I wouldn't do anything against my country. Why, I'd die first. 'Well, Miss Stoops, didn't you know that Spormann was pro-German in his sympathies? 'Of course, he was German, and he always regretted that the United States entered the war against Germany. I knew he loved his country, just like you love yours. But we seldom talked about it. 'Stories Contradict. Miss Stoops seemed to be unable to detail just exactly how, when, and where she met the young German. Her stories about how long she had known him and when she met him were contradictory. 'When did you meet him?' 'Oh, just about going with Mr. Spormann a long time. 'How long? 'About four years, then? 'Yes. 'Where did you meet him?' 'At a German hotel in Baltimore, where I was working. 'How long have you worked in Washington?' 'I have lived here, oh, a long time. You see I went away; I have been here since September. 'You met him before war was declared by the United States against Germany, or in 1914? 'Since war was declared against Germany by the United States, he was employed by a local plumbing concern, a German concern. 'Plumber? 'No, in clerical work. 'Unable To Get Job. 'He was unable to get a job in Washington after war was declared because he was German, and he went to work in the army camp. I told him that he would get into trouble, and I repeatedly begged him to give it up, but he wouldn't. I saw him last on Christmas Day. Look here, let me show you something. It was only yesterday that he sent me an American flag that he thought he would like to have. 'She brought out a handkerchief case made of silk, with an American flag inside sewed on the second fold. She wrote him only last night, and asked him to leave that work and get another job. Oh, how I wish he had! 'Miss Stoops, you love him, don't you? 'Yes. 'And he loves you? 'I think so. 'Then are you going to see him in jail? 'I don't know. That will have to be decided. I love him. And I don't think that because he is a German I ought to turn against him, ought I? 'Justice Agent Calls. 'That is for you to say, Miss Stoops. 'A Department of Justice agent called to see the young violinist immediately after The Times reporter had left the room. She met him in the parlor, and after an interview that lasted about an hour, the agent left. 'I don't know what to do,' she told a Times reporter. 'I don't know. It will all have to be decided later—not now. I am so worried that I can hardly think. 'What is your nationality, Miss Stoops? 'I am American—pure American. I have some English blood in me, but my people landed in this country from Holland generations ago. 'DENIES RAIL STATEMENT. Interstate Commerce Commissioner Anderson today formally denied that he had said the Government would lose \$500,000 by reason of its control of railways.

**Labor Administration To Give Men Preference In Filling Positions**

Employment of women in positions for which men are still available will be opposed by the new labor administration, according to a formal outline of policy made public here today.

Reduction of wage scales "because of the employment of women in place of men," also will be fought, it was announced. At the same time, employment of large numbers of women in industry at a "later" time was forecast.

**DECLARES BAKER'S PURCHASING PLAN IS "PERNICIOUS"**

As the first step in its consideration of the Chamberlain bill the Senate Military Committee today listened to a statement by Waddill Catchings, of New York, member of the war committee of the United States Chamber of Commerce. Catchings was formerly assistant to Edward Stettinius, allied purchasing agent in the United States.

Catchings fully endorsed the centralization of purchasing under one head with supreme authority to get things bought or manufactured. Secretary Baker's War Department purchasing plan is "most pernicious," Catchings said. He declared it divides purchasing power.

**INTRUDER DEMANDS KEYS OF U. S. TREASURY**

Cap. John Sprinkle and Watchman John Stockdale, had a lively struggle today with a man who demanded the keys to the United States Treasury.

The man was entering the Fifteenth street door of the Treasury, when he was stopped by Stockdale. He demanded the keys, and was taken into the office of Captain Sprinkle, where he talked incoherently. Without warning, it is said, he attacked Stockdale. He was subdued after a short struggle, and was turned over to the police of the First precinct.

There the man gave the name of John Charles Turner and his address of 447 H street northwest. He was sent to Washington Asylum for observation.

**ENGLAND TO RECOGNIZE BOLSHEVIKI MINISTER**

LONDON, Jan. 16.—Foreign Minister Balfour announced in the House of Commons today that Great Britain was about "to establish official relations with Minister Kriemloff," representative in London of the Bolshevik government.

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**STATEMENT FOLLOWS:**

"While it is probable that the extraordinary demands for workers in the war industries may later require the entrance of a large number of women into industry, it will be the policy of the newly created labor administration, conducted through the Department of Labor and its advisory council, to prevent the introduction of woman labor into positions for which men are still available and any reduction of wage scales because of the employment of women in place of men."

**PEABODY SUGGESTS U. S. COAL CONTROL AND PRICE-FIXING**

Plans for government control of coal, including price-fixing based on production costs and a standard of quality, were laid before the Senate coal investigating committee today by F. S. Peabody chairman of the Government coal production committee.

Peabody said his price-fixing basis would stimulate operation of the low-vein coal mines, where the production cost is greater, and would solve many difficulties of the present coal situation.

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**FRAMING PLAN TO SPEED INTRA-STATE TRAFFIC**

A system of co-operation to expedite intrastate traffic is being outlined today at a conference between

railways Director McAdoo and representatives of State public utility boards and State railway commissions. Plans for supplying city utilities, such as power, heat, and lighting plants with coal, also are being discussed.

**EUROPEAN WAR NEWS SUMMARY**

The extent of the success achieved by the Italian forces in the local attack delivered against the jutting position maintained by the Austrians on the northern front, in the crucial Monte Grappa region, is now apparent. The victory, although the action was circumscribed in area, was of importance and wiped out at a stroke what the Austrians had gained at great cost in men.

Monte Grappa, at the head of the Astico valley, is to the defense of the northern line west of the Piave river what Monte Hermada is to the Austrian defense of the Carso plateau, and the Italians, at the height of their ill-fated offensive against Trieste, were never able to do more than negotiate the lower slopes of Hermada. Monte Hermada, however, is no more than a hill compared to Monte Grappa, which is more than 5,700 feet high. Great spur branch, shoulder-wise, east and west of Grappa.

Northwest of Monte Grappa lies Monte Asolone, lower than Grappa, but also of a considerable height. The Austrians in their campaign with Grappa as their general objective, first attacked Asolone and maintained a salient at the head of the Cosila valley, a north-westerly corridor of the Astico valley. It was this salient that the Italians attacked. Effective artillery bombardments prepared the way for the infantry assaults which took the Austrians somewhat by surprise. The enemy was driven from his positions, the Italian line straightened, and thus a great part of the menace against Monte Grappa removed. The Austrians lost heavily in men, but the Italians, according to the German official report, also suffered "heavy losses." The Austrians counter-attacked vigorously, but were unable to regain the lost ground. Vigorous artillery fire continues on this and neighboring sectors.

Storming attacks were also made by the Italians in the Monte Solarolo sector and at Capo Sile, in the Piave delta region. Both were successful. The Piave attack succeeded in extending the Italian bridgehead position here. Austrian trench works being captured. The total captures of men by the Italians amounted to close to 400.

On the British and French fronts, the nature and extent of the fighting does not change. The rather vigorous artillery action on the right bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) continues, particularly in the sector between Haumont and Caurieres wood. Raids occurred at several points. Raids and artillery actions of minor importance are reported from the British front. The British daily continue their air raids into German held territory, the latest directed against the steel works at Thionville and the great railway junction at Metz. Both were heavily bombed.

**WILSON PLANS NEW CHECK ON CAPITAL FOOD DISTRIBUTERS**

A new force for food conservation in the District and to keep a check upon grocers and all food dealers, is being organized by Federal Food Administrator Clarence R. Wilson.

Personal representatives of the food administrator are to be appointed in each of the subdivisions into which the city was divided for the purposes of food pledge campaign week. These representatives will be expected to organize women's committees on home economics and food regulation in each district. This will give a close neighborhood organization, to teach conservation; announce and explain food administration plans; discuss substitution, recipes, canning, and nutritive values of food; co-operate in cooking demonstrations and home garden work; to give preference to stores signing the retail pledge; and to help make price lists effective, and checking and reporting hoarding and rumors of hoarding, and the compliance of stores, hotels, restaurants, and lunch rooms with food administration rules.

District chairmen who served in the pledge card campaign have been asked to make up the campaign for enrollment of retail grocers as members of the food administration. Mr. Wilson has sent them the following request:

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**SYRACUSE SUSPECT WILL BE INTERNED**

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Jan. 16.—Secret Service agents here stated today that Lieut. Adolf Launert, suspected of being connected with the German intelligence department, will be interned here for the duration of the war. His arrest yesterday followed extensive investigations into the activities of twenty-two German sympathizers here, suspected of conspiring against the Government. Launert is accused of being their leader.

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